



The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

Special points of interest:

- From the President
- October Program
- September Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- DX Contests

How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)
- * or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

From the President

For me the contest and DX season begins with the CQWW RTTY contest. It is one of my favorite contests. This year I entered Single Band 40 meter high power. I had to many commitments during the day to do an all band effort. The 40 meter propagation was strange. I had an EA station call me 3 hours before sunset on Sunday and a VK call me 1.5 hours after sunrise. The conditions were poor before sunrise. I had no JA callers. I had JAs call me after sunrise. It is not unusual for 40 meters to stay open during daylight after sunrise or before sunset. What was unusual is how poor conditions were in darkness before sunrise.

To get in the contest the first problem I had was to clear a path to the station. Most years during the summer months I work on 3 or 4 projects and the clutter gets pretty bad. This year I added N4KG restoration projects to my station improvement projects and things got way out of hand. Some of the projects have now been prioritized to retirement projects.

The two EME contest weekends are on the same weekends as CQWW this year. I guess most hams don't do both. If I get my new homebrew 2 meter amplifier assembled and tested I will probably enter the EME contests. I will need to pick up the pace on the amplifier project to finish on time. Many of the design issues are solved, but there is some specification creep like



Path to station. It may be necessary to try the long path.

most projects. I am trying to decide what to monitor in the amplifier. Some of my best solid state amplifiers have no monitoring or automatic shutdown including most of the brick amplifiers. I am going to house the amplifier in an N4KG tuner enclosure that didn't sell. I also got some really nice fans from Chuck that will be a key part of it.

Cont'd on p. 2

Multi-Op VHF Contesting in the Southeast

October Program by Kim Hensley, WGBS

Kim reprises his 2018 Hamfest forum: "Experiences with the Fourlander VHF Contest Group, a multi-op group out of Atlanta who operate from a great vantage point in north Georgia/Northwest North Carolina with lots of gear and operators." Get to Newk's between 5:30 and 6 for dinner, 6:30 for the business meeting, and 7:00 for Kim's program.



From the President

(cont'd from p. 1)

As part of the amplifier project I have made my first 4 crimp coax cables using my new DX Engineering tools. These use solder center conductors. I guess some would argue I have not drunk all the crimp connector Kool-Aid yet. My Xcelite braid cutter broke in the process, but was replaced by DX Engineering. I have never had an Xcelite tool fail before. My first Xcelite cutters and pliers were purchased when I was 12 when I first started building Heathkits 53 years ago. I sure wish I had my Metcal soldering station back then. It is one of the best investments I've made and I purchased it used. It is perfect for inside surface mount work and just as good with a heavy tip for antenna work. Quality tools are always a good decision.



New and improved station access. Better, but barely.

Besides EME contesting I encourage other club members to try VHF contesting. I was glad to hear Kim, WG8S will be giving a presentation on that topic at this month's club meeting. The VHF antennas are smaller which makes portable mountain topping operations much easier. I have enjoyed operating at the overlook at Monte Sano Park.

It is time for nominations for new officers for 2019. I encourage you run for an office in the club. I will work with the new President to make sure the transition is easy for you. Please let your ambitions be known to me or the nominating committee. New officers bring new ideas to the club.

73 Steve AG4W

The LongPath Staff

Publisher/Editor:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Departments:

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ, Minutes

Steve Werner, AG4W, From the President

September 11, 2018 NADXC Meeting Minutes

By Kelley Johns, W4VPZ, NADXC Secretary/Treasurer

Attendance

Members 22

Review of Sign-in Sheet & DX worked:

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Kevin KG4TEI | XR1SDC |
| Jim N4KH | What is DX? |
| Rob NN4NT | E51BQ Cook Island |
| Tim AB4B | ?DX? |
| Bob K8KI | Good time for broken radio |
| Walt AJ6T | W4NH EM85 70cm VHF Contest |
| Stephen KK4TJP | TX5T |
| Bruce AC4G | TX5T; DU5CT 160m |

H50 - 80m (FT8)
LoTW Easter Island

Announcements

Great Hamfest. NADXC flea market table made \$1630. Banquet was close to break-even. The Club received a donation check for \$200 from the Hamfest organization. Lots of cards were checked at the DX Club table during the Hamfest, and the Honor Roll plaques were well received by those who saw them.

The drawing prizes for the Banquet

were generously donated by many vendors, and the club did not purchase any prizes this year. Gigaparts, Yaesu, Heil, Ham Radio Outlet, Diamond Antennas, and RadioSport were big donors. We experienced a power outage, and, since we know that we can carry on "when all else fails" the banquet continued with barely a hitch. The prize drawings were done early due to the power outage, and Jim Fenstermaker K9JF, our speaker, held his program until the power returned for his slide show. Thanks to all who volunteered during the Hamfest weekend. There's a 3-year comparison of banquets in the last LongPath newsletter.

Cont'd on next page

September 11, 2018 NADXC Meeting Minutes

(cont'd from p. 2)

Treasurer's Report for August 2018

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$ 8,860.44 |
| Credits | |
| Banquet Tickets | \$ 1,509.79 |
| N4KG Estate Sales | \$ 1,825.20 |
| Member Dues | \$ 15.04 |
| K4XH memorial donation (HAYLARC) | \$ 50.00 |
| Debits | |
| Banquet | \$ 3,162.25 |
| Amateur Youth/Year Plaque | \$ 52.31 |
| Ending Balance | \$ 9,045.91 |

The minutes and treasurer's report were approved by the membership.

Membership Applications

K4KSV David Shealy's application was approved for membership. David lives in Vestavia Hills, AL. Welcome!

Old Business

ARRL Outgoing QSL - Stephen KK4TJP volunteered to sort cards to send to the ARRL bureau. The rates for North Alabama DX Club members to send QSL cards using our aggregation is \$3 for the first ounce, and \$3 for the second ounce.

Tom Russell N4KG's estate has some remaining antennas and parts. The recommendation is to take inventory after the immediate "takers" have settled their purchases. Another yard sale is possible.

There were many good programs at the Hamfest. We will try to get some of them to present at our club meetings, since many of us were working during the Hamfest and missed the forums.

Meeting was adjourned for the program.

September Treasurer's Report

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$ 9,045.91 |
| Credits | |
| Banquet Tickets | \$ 401.53 |
| N4KG Estate Sales | \$ 165.00 |
| Donation from Hamfest | \$ 200.00 |
| Member Dues | \$ 36.70 |
| Memorials for N4KG, K4XH, & K4JD (from Gigaparts) | \$ 300.00 |
| Debits | |
| Banquet Speaker Travel | \$ 627.34 |
| ARRL Plaque (K4JD) | \$ 250.00 |
| Ending Balance | \$ 9,271.80 |

The LongPath Staff

Publisher/Editor:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Departments:

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ, Minutes

Steve Werner, AG4W, From the President

NADXC Officers and Directors

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| President | Steve Werner, AG4W |
| Vice President | Rob Suggs, NN4NT |
| Secretary/ | Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ |
| Treasurer | |
| At-large | Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI |
| Directors | Tom Duncan, KG4CUY |

DX Contests for October

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

Oceania DX Phone Contest (PH), 160-10 meters

Oct 6, 0800Z to Oct 7, 0800Z

Exchange: RS & Serial No.

See page 91, Oct. QST and www.oceaniadxcontest.com

Russian WW Digital Contest, (DIG), 160-10 meters

Oct. 6, 1200Z to Oct. 7, 1159Z

Exchange: RST(Q) plus serial # or Oblast

See page 91, Oct. QST and www.rdclub.ru

RSGB DX Contest, (CW, PH), 80-10 meters

Oct. 7, 0500Z to Oct. 7, 2300Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus serial #

See page 91, Oct. QST and www.rsgbcc.org/hf

UBA ON Contest, CW, (SSB), 80 Meters

Oct. 7, 0600Z to 0900Z

Exchange: RST, serial No., ON section (if any)

See page 91, Oct. QST and www.uba.ba/en

Makrothen Contest, (Digital), 80-10 meters

Oct. 14, 0000Z to Oct. 15, 1559Z
(See website for time details)

Exchange: 4 character grid square

See page 91, Oct. QST and www.pl259.org/makrothen

Oceania DX Phone Contest (CW), 160-10 meters

Oct 13, 0800Z to Oct 14, 0800Z

Exchange: RS & Serial No.

See page 91, Oct. QST and www.oceaniadxcontest.com

Scandinavian Activity Contest, (SSB) 80-10 meters

Oct. 13, 1200Z to Oct. 14, 1200Z

Exchange: RS & Serial No.

See page 91, Oct. QST and <http://www.sactest.net>

UBA ON Contest, CW, (CW), 80 Meters

Oct. 14, 0600Z to 0900Z

Exchange: RST, serial No., ON section (if any)

See page 91, Oct. QST and www.uba.ba/en

JARTS WW RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80-10 meters

Oct. 20, 0000Z to Oct. 21, 2400Z

Exchange: RS(T) & op's age

See page 91, Oct. QST and www.jarts.jp/rules2018.html

Worked All Germany Contest, (SSB & CW), 20-10 meters

Oct 20, 1500Z to Oct 21, 1459Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus serial number or DOK code

See page 91, Oct. QST and www.darc.de

Stew Perry Topband Challenge, (CW), 160 meters

Oct. 20, 1500Z to Oct. 21, 1500Z

Exchange: 4-character grid square

See page 91, Oct. QST and www.kkn.net/stew

Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, (CW), 15 & 20 meters

Oct. 21, 0000Z-0200Z,

Exchange: RST plus serial number

See page 91, Oct QST and www.jsfc.org/apsprint



CQ WW SSB, (SSB), 160-10 meters

Oct. 27, 0000Z to Oct 28, 2359Z

Exchange: RS & CQ zone

See page 91, Oct. QST and www.cqww.com

WAE DX Contest (DIG), 80-10 meters

Nov. 10, 0000Z to Nov. 11, 2359Z

Exchange: RST plus serial number (see rules for QTC)

See www.waedc.de

OTHERS:

Ukrainian DX Contest,

1200Z, Nov 3 to 1200Z, Nov 4

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware. Also, check the cluster: "sh/contest". Have fun!

Chuck, N4NM